**2019-2020 Mars Desert Research Station Application Instructions and Information**

**Please read through this document carefully and follow all instructions. Failure to follow instructions may result in your application not being considered.**

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in participating as a crewmember at the Mars Society’s Mars Desert Research Station. We welcome applications from individuals who would like to be placed with a crew of compatible Marsnauts and from self-organized teams who would like to come to MDRS together. If you apply as a team, please read the following guidelines for self-organized crews and meet them as much as possible. In addition, both individuals and teams should review the crew documents on the MDRS website as they will assist in the application process.

Please read through this application carefully as some procedures have changed since last year.

1) All individuals, as well as members and alternates of self-organized teams, must complete the crew application by the application deadline.  The priority deadline is October 1, 2018 and final deadline for consideration is February 1, 2019. Crew selection will begin shortly after the priority deadline, and any application received after that date will be given consideration on a space available basis only. It is in your best interest to get your application in before the priority deadline as competition for crew spots is far greater than in the past.

2) External directors may apply on behalf of a team. External directors may be supporting an educational team made up of students from a single department and/or course, organizing a team from a particular country, region or organization, or developing a research project requiring a single crew to complete. If you want to apply as an external director, please contact us for additional guidelines prior to completing your application (email srupert@marssociety.org. Be aware that any crew accepted into the MDRS program as part of any group with an external director will still be required to comply with all of the MDRS programs regulations and protocols. MDRS does not “rent” the campus to other groups.

3) Please use the following information as guidelines for developing a self-organized crew. Self-organized crews must meet these guidelines in order to be selected for a rotation. If you have any questions or concerns, contact us.

Please note that self-organized crews can consist of between 6-7 people. Six is a fully functioning crew. Please indicate the number of people in your team on your application. **Guidelines for self-organized crews will be strictly enforced. If you do not meet these guidelines you must address why you don’t and how you will solve the loss of that component of your crew**.

Guidelines for self-organized crews:

* All must be healthy people, used to outdoor activity such as hiking and camping. They should all be people capable of eating all normal types of food.
* At least three of the six must speak English well. At least one must be fluent.
* All teams from a single university must have a faculty advisor who will assist the team with their research proposals and also be available to the crew and Mission Support during their stay at MDRS. This person must write a letter of commitment to the rotation that must be submitted with the team’s application.
* At least two of the crew should be natural scientists or natural science students. This is because the activity of the crew will be field exploration. If a crew does not have anyone who can fill the role of field scientist, along with their application they should submit a plan outlining the plan and purpose of their field activities.
* At least two members of the crew should be people who are very good at fixing mechanical or electrical equipment. This is because in the desert things frequently break down and a crew needs to have some ability to deal with such events.
* At least one of the crew should be a person capable of expressing himself or herself well in writing and be willing and able to send an account of each day's activity for publication on the Internet.
* One of them must have the maturity and judgment and experience to serve as crew commander. In order to be commander of a self-organized crew, the applicant must meet one of the following criteria:
	+ Must have served satisfactorily as crew commander in a prior field season
	+ Must have served satisfactorily as a crew member in a prior field season and show previous leadership experience in their field
	+ Must have served satisfactorily in a leadership role in a field expedition and/or a remote location
* All crew commanders will be screened and approved by the selection committee prior to assignment.
* One person should have some medical experience, either first aid/CPR or wilderness first responder. Another person will need to have experience or an interest in managing crops in the GreenHab.
* One person should be reasonably knowledgeable with computer and network operations, specifically wired and wireless connectivity, router configuration and basic network commands.
* We welcome student and professional artists in all disciplines, including fine art, graphic art, photography, film, journalism, and writing. In order to qualify as Artist-In-Residence, you must demonstrate that you make your living in that field and the final decision on whether that person qualifies as Artist-in-residence belongs to MDRS.
* All should be people enthusiastic about space exploration in general, and Mars exploration in particular.
* All of them must be serious, responsible people. No people should be sent who like to do dangerous things for fun, or who are not careful with other people's property, or who are otherwise excessively immature.
* All crewmembers will need to spend two weeks at the station, arriving and leaving together. At least two of them should be able to drive a car.
* You need to choose a crew of people who can get along and work together well. You are STRONGLY encouraged to have 2-3 alternate crewmembers. They will need to fill out an application as well. We will no longer approve an alternative crewmember after the selection process. If you find you need a replacement crewmember, it will be at the discretion of the Crew Selection Committee on who is assigned to your crew.
* The crew must all understand that they need to follow orders given to them by Mars Society’s Mission Support. We do not direct all the crew's activity. Much of their research program, for example, will be self-generated. But when we tell them they need to do something, or that they must not do something, they need to follow instructions. Crews that do not follow directives from Mission Support, and in particular the Director, will be removed from the station at their own expense.

**MDRS Crewmember Fees**

**Field Season 2019-2020**

Every participant is expected to pay fees no later than six weeks prior to the start of your mission, or on the first day of the field season, whichever comes LATER. These fees cover the costs of hosting your crew at MDRS.

Standard crew fees are below. In addition to these fees, crews that come to MDRS to complete research directed by outside researchers will be required to pay a 10% overhead fee to conduct that research (For example, if a crew is paid $1000 to conduct field testing of a commercial product, $100 of that payment will be due to the Mars Society). This money will be used to lower fees for student participants. So, while it is anticipated that there will be some variation in crew fees depending on what research is conducted, the information below will serve as a baseline for participation.

Professional fees are $750 a week or $1500 for a standard two-week rotation.

Recent students (will require proof of graduation within one year of rotation) pay $500 a week or $1000 for a standard two-week mission.

Students who qualify will pay fees of $375 per week or $750 for a standard two-week rotation.

Crews with less than 6 participating crewmembers at the time of their rotation will be required to pay a fee of $250 for each missing crewmember. In addition, crew members who do not show up for their rotation will forfeit their $250 deposit.

Included in the participation fee paid to The Mars Society is:

- Transportation by car to and from Grand Junction, Colorado

- All food and beverages provided during your time at MDRS

- Water, heating, electrical power at MDRS (except batteries)

- Use of science and engineering and general equipment, etc., rovers, and HabCar per established protocols

- Use of EVA spacesuits

Not included in the participation fee:

- Fuel for the trip from Grand Junction to MDRS and the return trip to Grand Junction. (160 miles one-way)

- Costs of two hotel nights for the overnight stay on Friday night before your rotation and Sunday night after your rotation.

- Cost of any hotel stay in Hanksville except as approved by the Director in an emergency

- Any medical expenses incurred as a result of your participation

- Travel expenses from your home to Grand Junction and back.

-Transportation expenses for crewmembers whose travel plans are different than the majority of the crew from Grand Junction.

- Meals not consumed at MDRS.

In order to qualify as students, applicants must be full-time students in a degree-seeking program at an accredited institution of higher learning. Students must send proof of their educational status to the Mars Society one month prior to your rotation or when requested. Failure to be pro-active about this may result in you being assessed a professional rate. For a crew that all attend the same university, a single letter from the registrar or the department chair will suffice as proof. Other documents we will accept are a current unofficial transcript and a letter from the registrar or a university for a single individual. These documents must be in English.

Recent graduates are also eligible for a reduced fee. In order to qualify, recent graduates must send proof that they have finished school within one year of their rotation at MDRS. It must be clear from the paperwork provided that this requirement has been met. These documents must be in English.

A $250 deposit will be due from each participant within sixty days of notification of crew selection ($1500 for a six-person crew). This deposit will be refundable after your rotation provided your crews does not damage, destroy or willfully mismanage MDRS facilities and resources. This also includes the understanding that if they do not leave the station clean and organized for the next crew, each crewmember will be charged a cleaning fee. This deposit will not be refunded should the crewmember not attend their crew’s rotation.